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EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE ARMY SCHOOL OF NURSING

The establishment of an army school of nursing has now been definitely decided upon by the War Department. The official announcement of the school, which is being sent out by the Surgeon General's office, is reproduced in full in this issue, in the Department of Nursing News. It outlines the plan so far as it has been developed up to this time.

The latest word which has come to us from Miss Goodrich, who is now the Dean of the military school, is that Miss Mary M. Riddle, superintendent of Newton Hospital, at Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts, has been released by her Board of Directors to establish the training unit at Camp Devens, and that Miss Helen Scott Hay, who has been serving in Miss Delano's office, is to assist Miss Goodrich in the Surgeon General's Office, as are also Miss Ellen Stewart, formerly superintendent of the Clarkson Memorial Hospital, Omaha, Neb., Miss Sally Johnson, superintendent of nurses, Albany Hospital, and Miss Anna C. Jammé, who has been given a year's leave of absence by the California State Board of Health.

In the first ten days after the announcement was given in the daily press, 981 letters of inquiry were received at the Surgeon General's Office. It is now hoped to have one of these training units in operation by the first of July.

THE WAR, AN IMPETUS TO NURSING EDUCATION

The reports that are coming in from different sections of the country indicate that the war is proving a great impetus to nursing education. The summer school for nurses at Vassar College has opened auspiciously with 550 students, selected from a large number of applicants. Five other universities, Western Reserve in Cleveland, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Iowa, the University of Colorado and the University of California, are offering somewhat similar courses to which high school students are also admitted, Vassar alone requiring a college degree. To these institutions,

the surplus applicants of the Vassar course are being referred. It is gratifying to note that these schools are so located geographically that the course promises a well balanced distribution of students in the civilian hospitals.

It seems, now, unfortunate that in our zeal to safeguard the training of nurses, seventeen or eighteen states have so formulated their laws that the entire three years of a nurse's training must be spent within the hospital, thus making it practically impossible for these schools to take advantage of outside educational agencies, such as these preliminary college courses, college and technical schools, public health work and visiting nursing, and, in some instances, might debar them from affiliating with the new Army School of Nursing. In one or two states, we understand, the attorney general is permitting this broader interpretation to be placed upon their present state law.

Let this not be misunderstood. We are not advocating less than three years of training for the candidate without unusual educational advantages, but we wish that at least a part of this third year of training might be spent where the greatest benefit for the pupil in training is to be derived.

Undoubtedly this war has stimulated a greater interest in nursing in some sections. Schools we know about that really have advantages to offer in the way of nursing education are experiencing no difficulty in obtaining applicants with higher educational qualifications than they have ever before admitted. Their greatest difficulty at present is in finding suitable instructors, the ranks having been somewhat depleted by so many of them responding to the call to the colors.

The way one group of hospitals is meeting the situation is shown by Miss Gilman in the Department of Hospital and Training School Administration in this issue, and Miss Jammé, in the Department of Nursing Education, suggests another way to help solve the problem. Both point to a revolution in training school methods which promise to be an improvement over some of our long established customs, and would seem to indicate that this war may prove a signal impetus to nursing education and not wholly a detriment.

THE RED CROSS ENROLLMENT DRIVE

As we go to press, the Red Cross Drive for the Enrollment of Nurses is still on, in many states. We have not yet received any report from National Headquarters, and we can only judge of the general effect by the interest which has been aroused in our own community.

The committee appointed by the Red Cross Chapter, working

with the Nursing Service Committee and the special members appointed to represent the different hospitals have pulled together so effectively that, with the splendid coöperation of the press, there is every indication that the enrollment has "gone over the top." We believe what holds good of our home center will be found to prevail over practically the whole country. One difficulty has been in reaching the great numbers of nurses who are so absorbed in their daily task that their sense of obligation has not yet been awakened.

We are all agreed that the entire nursing forces cannot be withdrawn from civil life, for in order to carry on the war effectively the health of the workers at home must be maintained. But the problem of providing nursing care for the men in the field must ever be uppermost in our minds.

THE RED CROSS WAIVES STATE REGISTRATION

To give the 17,000 graduate nurses who are unregistered an opportunity to serve, the National Committee of the Red Cross Nursing Service has waived the requirement of state registration for the period of the war. As we have stated before, with a majority of the states having laws that are not mandatory, this action is not only reasonable but necessary.

The whole situation has been complicated by the lack of uniformity in our state laws, and by the fact that so few of them are compulsory, one of the things needing to be changed and as rapidly as possible.

VIRGINIA LEADS IN THE TRAINING AND LICENSING OF ATTENDANTS

For a dozen years or more, back and forth over this country, there has been continued discussion on the subject of the training of attendants. Should they or should they not be trained? Should they or should they not be registered? If trained, by whom should they be trained? If registered, by whom should they be registered? But with an immense amount of discussion nothing has been accomplished, excepting that a few attendants have been trained under the Y. W. C. A. And up to this time, these attendants have been without recognition or status of any kind, no provision having been made for registering them.

The Virginia State Association, through its legislative committee, and working in conjunction with the Virginia State Board of Examiners, as a means of meeting the serious shortage of nurses, has, with very little acclaim, had introduced into the legislature a bill to provide for the training and licensing of attendants for the sick. The bill has passed both houses, was signed by Governor Davis in April, and at once became a law.

The Act is printed in full in this number, under Nursing News and Announcements, Virginia. Further information in regard to it may be had from the secretary of the State Board, Miss Julia Mellichamp, Pulaski.

CHANGES IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE QUARTERLY

The National Organization for Public Health Nursing at the convention in Cleveland made some radical changes in the management of its official organ, *The Public Health Nurse Quarterly*. Subscriptions to that magazine are now to be included in membership in the national organization, the membership dues being raised to \$2.00 for active members.

The *Quarterly* and the *Bulletin* of the organization are to be combined under the title of *The Public Health Nurse*, and the new magazine will be issued monthly. The four quarterly issues will be the size of the present magazine, and the intervening issues slightly smaller. The price of the magazine will be \$2.00 a year for those who are not members.

All combinations and club subscriptions are being discontinued, because of this change, and our subscribers who have in the past obtained the JOURNAL and *The Public Health Nurse Quarterly* together for \$2.50, will, when renewing, pay the full price for each, \$2.00 for the JOURNAL and \$2.00 for *The Public Health Nurse*. This plan will go into effect with the July issue, but those whose subscriptions continue after July will receive their remaining copies at the old rate until the present subscription expires.

We extend our congratulations to the National Organization for Public Health Nursing and to the editors and managers of the magazine in having brought their official organ to this splendid stage of development, and in having seen the wisdom of including the subscription to the magazine in their dues.

THE INTERSTATE SECRETARY

The Interstate Secretary, Miss Eldredge, spent some time late in May and in the early part of June in Vermont and northern New York, and left for Illinois in time for a district meeting in Elgin on the 8th. She will spend the remainder of the month in that state, with a short trip into Wisconsin. She is ready to respond to calls during the month of July, but the month of August is to be set aside for a much needed vacation.

Beginning with the first week in November, she has been constantly moving, speaking in twenty states, sometimes to as many as six different groups in one day. Her odd periods of rest during that time have scarcely amounted to a month.

She will be ready to begin her work for the next year on the first of September. Those wishing to have her counsel and assistance with their varied problems, should decide as early as possible when they wish her to come and try to arrange with adjoining states, that there may be as great an economy as possible of time and expense, as well as consideration for Miss Eldredge's strength. From the letters which have been received in this office and from the amount of JOURNAL business which has come in, there is no question that her service to the American Nurses' Association, to the League, the Red Cross and the JOURNAL has been very helpful.

THE MILITARY NURSING NUMBER

There are still some few hundred copies left of our May JOURNAL (price 35 cents), which we are anxious to have given as wide publicity as possible. This special number of our magazine is the JOURNAL'S contribution to the Red Cross Drive for the enrollment of nurses. So, we are repeating the request we made at the Cleveland convention, that our regular readers order a special copy sent to some nurse who they have reason to believe is not a subscriber to the JOURNAL or not enrolled for Red Cross service.